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### “Christmas in July”

As promised, WVI will have its Christmas in July on Sunday, July 18, 2021. The **free** picnic will be provided by United States Vets, Inc. and is open to veterans and their families.

- Location: Swan Creek Metropark (4301 Airport Highway)
- Time: 11:00am - 4:00pm
- Mary Jane Gill Shelter (near play ground)
- Bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank

RSVP: By July 14 to [cenagy@bex.net](mailto:cenagy@bex.net)

# WVI Newsletter

JULY 2021



## Consumer Assistance for Military Families

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) is the statewide legal representative for consumers in matters related to investor-owned, regulated electric, natural gas, telephone, & water services in Ohio. The OCC advocates for consumers in proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), federal regulatory agencies, appellate courts, and the Ohio General Assembly. OCC works hard to keep investor-owned utility prices low, while ensuring safe and reliable utility service, and to educate consumers on important utility issues.

OCC offers helpful resources and services to help manage utility bills. Visit [www.occ.ohio.gov](http://www.occ.ohio.gov) for fact sheets on a variety of topics. Information is available on:

- \* setting up utility service,
- \* disconnection and re connection rights and responsibilities,
- \* consumer assistance programs,
- \* ways to lower utility bills through energy efficiency and weatherization,
- \* avoiding utility scams, and
- \* understanding energy choice.

You may be specifically interested in OCC's [Consumer Assistance for Military Families](#) fact sheet that provides information on utility assistance for veterans, reservists, and active duty personnel. (<http://bit.ly/consumer-assistance-military>) OCC offers presentations on these topics, and several other utility issues. For more information, or if you are interested in scheduling a presentation, please contact OCC at [occ@occ.ohio.gov](mailto:occ@occ.ohio.gov) or 1-877-742-5622. Follow OCC on Twitter at [@OCC4Consumers](https://twitter.com/OCC4Consumers) for helpful news on utility-related topics.

Article provided by: Amy Carles -Senior Outreach & Education Specialist OCC

## American Legion Post 384

WVI would like to extend its appreciation of support to the American Legion Post 384 during the Whitehouse Cherry Fest 2021 Military Night on June 10, 2021.

While meeting veterans and supporters we were able to have good conversations while increasing our membership, listen to music and enjoy some delicious food.

A special thank you to Stephanie Phillips for all the work that she did to organize the event and for thinking of WVI and our needs. Phillips is the owner of SKP Massage in Whitehouse. To schedule an appointment contact: 567-246-8063 or [skpmassage15@gmail.com](mailto:skpmassage15@gmail.com).



Something to think about ...

“How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-ros!”

Quote by Maya Angelou

# The Six Triple Eight

Military Women's Memorial writes "in February 1945, the U.S. Army sent 855 black women from the Women's Army Corps (WACs) to England and France to clear the backlog of mail in the European Theater of Operations. The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the Six Triple Eight, was the only all-black female battalion to serve in Europe during WWII. Confronted with racism and sexism from their own leadership and troops, they served with honor and distinction completing their mission in six months. By war's end, the Six Triple Eight had cleared over 17 million pieces of backlogged mail ensuring the troops stayed in touch with their loved ones back home. The last of the women returned home in March 1946."



Provided by: Military Women's Memorial

## VA's Women Veterans Call Center

"Do you know your Veteran status? Do you have a Veteran ID card? Should you receive any benefits from VA, like the GI Bill? Do you know what health care benefits you have earned? If you do not know the answer to even one of these questions, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has established the Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) just for you.

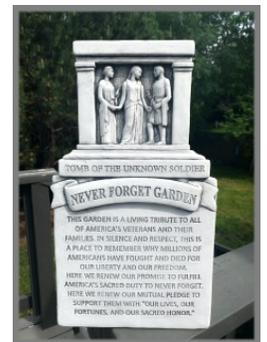
The WVCC staff is trained to provide women Veterans, their families, and caregivers about VA services and resources. We are ready to respond to your concerns. The call is free, and you can call as often as you like until you have the answers to your questions. The Call Center is available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. ET, and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. ET."

Information: US Department of Veteran Affairs



## Never Forget Garden

Military Women's Memorial posted: Through an initiative started in 2018, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Never Forget Garden is a nationwide invitation to all Americans and freedom loving people to plant gardens as a visual way to represent America's unwavering commitment to our sacred duty to recognize, remember, and honor our veterans, many who continued to serve as first responders, and their families now and for many years to come. There are many ways and traditions that are available to express patriotism, love, mourning and remembrance. A "Never Forget Garden" can provide an elegant expression of that which deeply resides in the heart of our fellow Americans: "I will Never, Ever Forget You – I am in it with you." The Never Forget Garden Marker, designed in collaboration with the artists at Carruth Studio, was inspired by the sacred duty of the American people to never, ever forget or forsake all those who have served & sacrificed on behalf of America in times of war or armed conflict. Its message beckons the visitor to pause in this special place, & with a quiet soul open your heart to allow these plantings to speak; to reflect upon the deeds of those who we owe a debt that can never be fully repaid; & to think about those immutable truths that define us as Americans secured by their full measure of devotion. Photo provided by: Military Women's Memorial.



## Women Veterans Day

June 12, 2021 marked the first time Ohio women veterans could officially celebrate Women Veterans Day. Thanks to Jamie Paxton (Director, Little Blessings Veteran Outreach) women veterans were the honored guests at the Women Warrior Fundraiser held on June 12, 2021 at Duke Petting Farm. The evening provided the opportunity to meet women veterans from Ohio and Michigan and share our experiences. The women veterans were treated like royalty and were the recipients of a "goodie" bag, hand made blanket and delicious food. Guests could tour Duke Farm and the Little Blessings community area, visit the vendors and have their picture taken with Wonder Women. Live music was provided. The MC for the evening was Rebecca Verdugo (Army) from Proclaim FM.